

POINT ARENA COVE

The end of Iverson Avenue where it meets the Pacific Ocean

Point Arena

Mendocino County

California

HALS CA-37

CA-37

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20240-0001

# HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

## POINT ARENA COVE

HALS NO. CA-37

**Location:** The end of Iverson Avenue where it meets the Pacific Ocean, Point Arena, Mendocino County, CA  
Lat: 37.91514 Long: -123.70937

**Significance:** Point Arena Cove is significant because this natural landform created a relatively safe place for ships to anchor and that land use led in part to the establishment of the town of Point Arena on California's northern coast.

**History:** Two arms of land extend out into the Pacific Ocean forming a near perfect half circle that creates a sheltered inlet ideally suited for ships to moor. These arms of land rise in elevation as they connect to land forming dramatic, steep cliffs. The cliffs are near vertical in places and as such are subject to erosion. Little vegetation is able to survive on the rocky cliff face.

Point Arena took root as the lumber trade established to log the virgin Redwoods that thrived along the Garcia River. Loggers cut the trees and brought them to the mills. According to "The Early Days of Point Arena" by Steve Oliff, "The mills brought the loggers. The schooners brought the businessmen. The homesteaders followed, and then the fishermen, hunters, Hot Springs tourists, and all that we know as our (Point Arena) history."

Cut logs were sent via a flume to Rollerville where they were milled and loaded onto trains for a short trip south to near the town of Point Arena. From there they were loaded onto a shoot that shot them down to the wharf where they were loaded onto schooners and shipped south to San Francisco.

Today a new wharf has replaced the original at the same location. The view from the wharf is aligned with the historic Wharf Master Inn built in 1865 as the private residence for the Wharf Master. This structure was one of the first homes built in Mendocino County. The access road and loading area are much the same as they were in 1888. A new warehouse building and other support structures are of a similar scale and orientation to the original wood buildings.

**Sources:** The Early Days of Point Arena: A Pictorial history of the City and Township by Steve Oliff and Cheri Carlstedt, Copyright 2005, Published by Olyoptics.  
[www.olyptics.com](http://www.olyptics.com)

Conversation with the Wharf Master Inn keeper and promotional literature provided for the Inn which is currently available for rental..  
[www.wharfmasters.com](http://www.wharfmasters.com). (707) 882-4114.

Site visit by Chris Pattillo on February 27, 2009.

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North arm extending out into the Pacific to form a natural cove (Chris Pattillo, February 27, 2009). The two cliffs / landforms that form the cove are essentially unchanged from those shown in 1888 photographs in Oliff's book



Beach and land mass that forms the south side of Point Arena Cove (Chris Pattillo, February 27, 2009).